Goldilocks -- How to Write a Topic Sentence that is Just Right!

Every body paragraph should include a topic sentence that identifies or states the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the paragraph.

The topic sentence comes AFTER a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ device.

The topic sentence appears at the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the paragraph and is the very first sentence.

A paragraph’s topic sentence must be general enough to express the paragraph’s overall subject.

But it should be specific enough that the reader can understand the paragraph’s main subject and point.

How do you get it “Just Right?”

* Include main ideas that are specific and reveal the position or claims that you are going to take or make.
* Write a sentence that will MATCH all of the SUPPORT that you will provide later in the paragraph.

Circle the sentence that is the BEST topic sentence: Be prepared to explain your answer.

A). Jolly has two children and spent part of her life living in a box as a homeless person.

B). Jolly struggles to take care of her children because she does not have enough education or skills to get a full-time job that pays above the minimum wage.

C). When LaVaughn tries to convince Jolly to go back to school, Jolly replies, “Me go back to school, you got another joke?“ (Wolff 66).

D). Jolly loves her children and wants to keep them safe with her –that’s why she refuses to accept Welfare.

Read the following paragraph and write a topic sentence for it:

Bill Januson’s boss at the burger restaurant only wants to hire him on a part time basis. Even though Bill is an able cook and wants to work more hours, his boss tells him, “Thirty’s all I got.” By keeping Bill in a part-time position, his boss pays Bill only minimum wage but does not pay him overtime hours or provide him with health benefits. This means that Bill cannot earn enough money to support his two children. Similarly, Bill is unable to get a full-time job at a retail store. When he goes for the interview, Bill admits that he does not have any sales experience and does not have a high school degree. Even retail jobs require that workers have more education and some type of experience. Bill has neither and is not considered a qualified applicant for employers who require additional skills or education. The interviewer lets Bill know that he will not be getting the job because he isn’t qualified. Document Nine is a bar chart that contains information provided by the National Conference of State Legislatures. The chart provides the different state minimum wages and identifies those states that pay in excess or equal to the federal minimum wage. According to Document Nine, Washington State had a state minimum wage of $9.47 per hour in 2015. This wage is $2.22 above the federal minimum wage of $7.25. If Bill works in Seattle at a full-time job for 40 hours per week at the state minimum wage, he would earn $378.80 per week or $19, 697.60 per year and would receive health care. In contrast, as a part-time worker at that same wage of $9.47 an hour, Bill is only able to earn $284.1 per week or $14, 773.20 per year and would not receive health care. Clearly, Bill Januson will continue to struggle to feed his children and support his family if he cannot find a full-time job.